

RABIES (Human)

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An almost invariably fatal acute encephalomyelitis caused by the rabies virus.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis initially; laboratory confirmation required to meet case definition.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck),
 - **OR**, Isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or central nervous system tissue, **OR**
 - Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A laboratory confirmed infection with rabies virus.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by telephone to the emergency telephone number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03)
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Ensure that appropriate infection control precautions are being taken at the facility in which the patient is hospitalized.
 - Source investigation to be conducted upon laboratory confirmation of a human rabies case.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND HEALTH PLANNING, STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN: 502-564-3418.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. RABIES. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 411-419.
2. Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2000: National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. MMWR 2000; Vol. 49 (No. RR-8).
3. Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 1999: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 1999; 48 (No. RR-1).
4. Human Rabies in Kentucky – 1996. Kentucky Epidemiologic Notes and Reports, 1997, April, Vol. 32. No. 4.
5. Pickering, LK, ed. Rabies. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 475-482.